Dear **<INSERT MP NAME>**,

I am writing as your constituent to request an urgent meeting with you to discuss the challenges faced by myself and other poultry farmers across the country as a result of Avian Influenza (“AI”).

Between 26 October 2021 and 30 September 2022 there were 158 cases of highly pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 in poultry and captive birds confirmed in the UK. Since the 2022/23 AI outbreak administratively re-started on 1 October 2022 there have been more than 100 cases in poultry and captive birds confirmed in the UK.

The persistence of this virus over the past year even during the warmer months, coupled with soaring energy and feed costs has put the whole of the British poultry sector under huge emotional and financial pressure.

**<Insert personal experience here, for example how AI has personally affected your business whether that be by being confirmed as an infected premises, being caught up in disease control zones or concerns about how the risk of AI may impact your business in the future>**

I welcome the [introduction of mandatory housing measures for all poultry and captive birds in England by Defra](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/avian-influenza-housing-order-to-be-introduced-across-england#AIPZ) on the 7 November 2022 however the persistent increase in the number of cases being confirmed and the catastrophic impacts this is having on the poultry sector needs to be addressed as a priority.

Further urgent action is needed from Government to address the following ongoing concerns:

1. **Ensuring that the government’s compensation protocol and payment scheme for premises which are confirmed with AI is fit for purpose.**
2. **Expanding the regional housing measures GB wide to reflect the increase in the levels of risk across the country.**
3. **Reviewing the marketing legislation to ensure that the protection period for the marketing of free-range eggs should last for the duration of mandatory housing measures.**
4. **Providing support on longer term measures for the government and industry to deal with AI as an annual occurrence – i.e., research into vaccination, APHA resource and virus survivability.**

I would welcome a meeting with you at your earliest convenience to discuss the issues outlined above and the devastating impact Avian Influenza is continuing to have and to seek any help you can give to ensure sufficient actions are taken by the government. I am happy to meet virtually or in the constituency to suit your schedule.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

**<INSERT NAME>**